



THE LIBERATOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | **APRIL 29, 2013** | ISSUE 8

RESEARCH WEEK 2013

MAKE THE MOST OF
SUMMER
IN ATX

YOUTUBERS ON CAMPUS

UT STUDENTS WITH POPULAR CHANNELS TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

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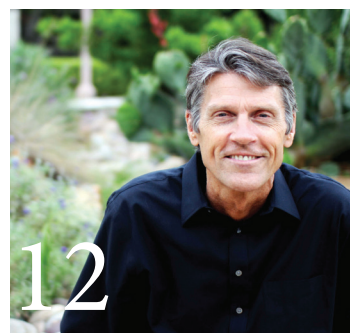
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Photos by Madhu Singh



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*INTERESTED IN BEING A
PART OF THE LIBERATOR?*

KEEP AN EYE OUT IN THE FALL FOR INFORMATION ON
APPLYING TO BE A PART OF LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL!
THE LIBERATOR IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WRITERS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DESIGNERS INTERESTED IN
BEING A PART OF A PUBLICATION

ON THE COVER **8** | YOUTUBERS ON CAMPUS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from
this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts
Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to
keep students connected to the university through updates
on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions,
comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

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A SEASON OF FRESH BEGINNINGS

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE NEW SG LEADERSHIP

HORACIO VILLAREAL AND U GEO WILLIAMS >>>
WERE ELECTED AS THE NEW STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
AND VICE PRESIDENT, RESPECTIVELY. THEY WERE
INAUGURATED ON APRIL 9TH



Why do some students argue April is the worst? Maybe it's because by now, we're all on the tail end of our Spring semester, our brains exhausted from a year of academic rigor. For graduating seniors, commencement celebrations are just around the corner, for the rest - summer vacation. Everyone sits at the edge of their seat waiting for the next big something.

For Horacio Villareal and Ugeo Williams, that next big thing involves leading the UT student body as its Student Government President and Vice President, respectively. Unlike the opportunities and challenges the rest of us face as finals approach, Horacio and Ugeo's leadership journey through the myriad of university issues, wants, and needs began during the allegedly awful April; they were inaugurated on April 9th's Tuesday evening Student Government meeting.

Horacio Villareal is a senior History major in the College of Liberal Arts. He calls Corpus Christi, Texas home, is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and a former member of our own Liberal Arts Council. Ugeo Williams is a senior pursuing a degree in Sociology from the College of Liberal Arts and a degree in Youth and Community Studies from the College of Education.

He came to UT from Corsicana, Texas and has served in numerous campus roles, including Orientation Advisor, student ambassador for the Student Activity Center (SAC), and as a student assistant for the Student Organization Center.

Together, Horacio and Ugeo hope not only to build on prior and existing initiatives established by last year's Student Government President and Vice President, but they also hope to bring fresh

ideas to the campus community and stimulating a sense of inclusion among all students, from architecture to undergraduate studies.

While rumors surrounding the University's Board of Regents, threats of economic scarcity, and worries about finding employment upon graduation make the future seem grim, the prospects of unity, increased resources, and continued representation at the statewide level indicate that not all is lost for students.

The duo's main platform points are service, inclusion, safety, and accessibility. Horacio and Ugeo count a university-wide mentorship program, more pre-football game rallies, additional Emergency Blue Boxes, and increased healthy dietary options as their key initiatives for the next year. Additionally, Horacio and Ugeo hope to strengthen Student Government's relationship with the Senate of College Councils and the Graduate Student Assembly to increase student engagement with all legislative student organizations that serve as the voices of students.

This past academic year, Horacio served as a university-wide representative in Student Government and also chaired the legislative affairs committee. Similarly, Ugeo served as the Student Government Representative for the College of Education. Horacio and Ugeo plan to unite their common knowledge of Student Government and diverse campus experiences to create opportunities for students to become engaged, influenced, inspired, bringing campus community to life by uniting us all together.

■ DANA HENNING

**Horacio
and Ugeo hope
to bring fresh ideas to
the campus community
and stimulating a sense
of inclusion among all
students.**

PLATFORM

- SERVICE
- INCLUSION
- SAFETY
- UNITY

KEY INITIATIVES

- MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
- INCREASE:
 - PRE-FOOTBALL GAME RALLIES
 - EMERGENCY BLUE BOXES
 - HEALTHY DIETARY OPTIONS

3 SENIORS CHANGING THE WORLD

THE TEACHER



Katherine "Katy" Eyberg

Currently a teacher at Round Rock High School, English major Katy Eyberg chose to follow in the footsteps of her parents and has become an educator after four years of involvement in the UTeach program.

"I want to make the world an accessible place for kids who feel like they can't achieve in school," said Eyberg with regard to choosing a career in education. "And I want to make them feel that they do have a place in productive society."

As a child, Eyberg had many career goals, but teaching was not one of them. However, traveling across the world with her family allowed her to realize her ultimate dream. By the age of thirteen, she had already backpacked in Asia, Europe and Australia, and acquired a firm sense of social responsibility and cultural appreciation.

Her experiences abroad reinforced the valuable lessons from her father, who emphasized selflessness and civic duty. Having signed a contract with Teach For America, Eyberg will move to Arizona and then to New Mexico to fulfill her dream of teaching literacy—which she considers a basic human right—to students in some of the roughest and most underprivileged classrooms.

"It's not about money. It's not about prestige for me. It's about making people educated to the best of my ability," Eyberg firmly stated. "Find what gives you a sense of purpose, because that will sustain you more than any kind of money you make—that sense of purpose that gets you up in the morning, [and] in my case very early to teach."

THE ACTIVIST



Ben Weiss

History, government and humanities major Ben Weiss has proven himself as not only a scholar, but a true humanitarian as well. With plans to pursue a Ph. D in African history, Weiss will be graduating after completing his thesis regarding methods of the procurement of antiretroviral medication to treat HIV in several African countries and the related intellectual property laws and policies.

While capable in the classroom, Weiss also enjoys being hands on in his work. "I would love to be in the field," he stated. "I've been back and forth to Africa a couple of times, and I adore Botswana and would love to live there."

As a prominent member of the Graduate Africanist Organization and the former president of the White Rose Society (a Holocaust remembrance and anti-genocide activist group), Weiss's passion for human justice stemmed from his experiences as a debater throughout high school. "It was my first exposure to human rights and political oppression outside of the U.S.," Weiss said as he recalled doing yearlong research on U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Weiss aims to become a political consultant, believing that many of the people making policies do not have an adequate understanding of the historical situation in African countries to solve the problems in those areas.

"Understanding the historical context is really critical to having effective policy on dealing with HIV," Weiss remarked before firmly adding, "Your education should be valuable because you are intellectually stimulated by it and because it's important to you—not because it gets you the best pay check."

THE DOCTOR



Travis Knoll

Enrolled in the nation's best Latin American studies program, Travis Knoll is a graduating senior currently working on a thesis that discusses the underlying ideological forces behind dictatorships and other authoritarian structures in Latin America. As he pursues his master's degree, Knoll will focus on Argentina and Brazil, and has already been accepted to attend a political science conference in Argentina. However, his ambitions don't stop there.

In order to develop the broad themes that he is working on, Knoll smiled and said, "I'll have to force myself to get outside my two countries." Knoll has enterprising plans to compose a Fulbright proposal to fund his extensive research, so while academia is a desired path, Knoll is also considering a career in either a non-profit organization or the highly esteemed Foreign Service.

Inquisitive and thoughtful, Knoll went on to discuss the struggle of maintaining American interests and values abroad while reconciling with one's personal beliefs. "There are a lot of questions that take internal reflection," Knoll said. "It's a journey."

Knoll currently works as an intern for the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice; his experience in the organization continues to intensify his passion for his work in Latin America as he questions power structures and the consequences of patriarchy. In the meantime, Knoll also writes for the Daily Texan, an endeavor that Knoll justified by saying, "Academia isn't just for the tower. It's also so that other people can understand. Ideas should be shared."

■ ELIE WU

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO WEST CAMPUS LIVING

an interview with Richie Gill

Richie Gill, the founder of Longhorn Leasing, has recently completed a thesis on the on-campus housing situation at the University of Texas at Austin. This combination of professional and academic experience has given him a well-rounded understanding of what makes for a good living situation. We decided to tap into his wealth of knowledge so that you could be better prepared for when you are ready to make some decisions about where to live during your time as a student here. This is what he had to say:

Could you give a quick background of your experience with housing on and off campus?

Richie: I founded Longhorn Leasing two years ago, which has a couple dozen leasing agents and helps several hundred students find housing each year. This gives me first hand experience with almost every student housing apartment complex within 5 miles of campus. My thesis looked at on-campus housing, giving me some insight into on-campus living.

What are some of the most influential factors in living situations that make students more successful?

Richie: Here are the primary factors that contribute to both academic and social success:

- **Community Bathrooms** – One of the most important and significant design factors that contributed to social behavior among students is the placement of the bathroom. Residents of San Jacinto and Duren Residence Halls overwhelmingly thought their private bathrooms inhibited their ability to make new friends. In addition, residents in halls with community bathrooms purportedly found many of their friends during bathroom small talk. Recommendations regarding the number of students per bathroom and layout are beyond the scope of this study.
- **Single main entrance/exit** – Residents at Moore-Hill noted increased interaction due to a single entrance, while Duren residents noted decreased interaction due in part to the numerous entry/exit points of the building. Residents at Duren would regularly leave the building without passing by a single person.
- **Intermediate Space** – Students need study spaces that are not too large, as to intimidate – but big enough to accommodate 5-10 students. More social interaction occurs in these 'cozy' settings. With Jester, we found a large portion of students noting the lack

of intermediate space for study. This leaves students intimidated by the large community spaces of the first floor and too lonely in their individual rooms.

How many beds are available in on-campus housing?

Richie: 14 halls, 2 million sq ft, 7,550 beds

What is the most economic living situation off-campus? Are co-ops the best solution for inexpensive housing?

Richie: Best bang for your buck is living on Riverside in a four bedroom. We lease those units for \$345 each bedroom. Co-ops are a solution, but they are too small to have a significant impact on the housing market.

Switching the focus to apartment-style living close to campus, specifically in the West and North campus areas, could you discuss a bit about the benefits and drawbacks of choosing the larger apartment complexes?

Richie: The big complexes are generally more expensive. They are also louder due to their layout and construction. This being said, management is usually quicker with maintenance requests because of in-house staff. The smaller complexes are cozier and have more unique feel.

2400 Nueces by designed by Larry Speck. He used his knowledge of student behavior and experience with dorms to design a complex designed to encourage successful study habits and social behavior.

Do you have any tips for students on when and how to find good deals on apartments close to campus?

Richie: The absolute best deals are hidden from the public and only accessible by speaking with our leasing agents. Browsing LonghornLeasing.com will also give you good insight into the best deals that we are allowed to share to the public. Give our office a call at (512) 900-7963

Of these facilities as well as off-campus dormitories, which are statistically the most conducive to the academic success of residents?

Richie: Without rewriting my thesis, here is a quick chart that will give you the data you need:

Through a regression analysis, I found a predicted GPA (based on student SAT score, high school class rank, parent education, and many other fields) and compared this to the student's actual GPA their first year at UT. The difference between the predicted and actual GPA is the influence housing has on student performance. Pictured are the numerical differences – Moore-Hill did best by improving student performance by .0973135 (first year GPA). This is also a connecting letters chart. Dorms with different letters are statistically significant from each other. Off-campus halls are on par with on-campus. Hardin house and SRD do the best for student performance.

Residence Hall	Level			Mean
Moore-Hill	A			0.0973135
San Jacinto	A			0.0972891
Roberts	A			0.0917297
Kinsolving	A			0.0666003
Duren	A			0.0588879
Off-campus hall	A			0.0529715
Littlefield	A	B		0.0520009
Carothers	A	B	C	0.0382305
Andrews	A	B	C	0.0248886
Prather	A	B	C	0.0006986
Blanton	A	B	C	-0.0179451
Jester		B	C	-0.0527091
Whitis Court		B	C	-0.0920654
Creekside			C	-0.1203446

REAL WORLD VIGILANTES: ANONYMOUS

A FEW NOTABLE EVENTS
FROM THE
ANONYMOUS RESUME:

STEUBENVILLE

After becoming aware that something smelled funny, Anonymous jumped to action. They access and then released a plethora of personal emails, photos, videos, and other incriminating sources online, which fuelled the community to follow the case through.

WESTBORO BAPTIST

Anonymous has long been against extremism in any context, so when Westboro Baptist Church began to gain attention from the media, they interfered. Calling for people to get involved locally, Anonymous hacked the WBC website which looped a pre-planned video and organized the people to ruin WBC's protests of funerals and schools.

SCIENTOLOGY

The protest of Scientology was one of Anonymous's first major projects. They targeted the monetary abuse of members, and later criticized the church of being cult-like in nature.

NORTH KOREA

Under the pressure of recent nuclear threats, Anonymous has been hard at work undermining North Korea and bringing to light their faulty warmongering tactics. Two times in the past month and counting, Anonymous has seized control of a major North Korean news network and forced negative images of Kim Jong-Un to be shown.

The world's most successful Internet hacking group

Behind the innocent mask of sites like Facebook and Twitter, the internet holds a dark secret. Past even the naïveté of a user-friendly website such as Reddit, the website called 4chan is rarely spoken of in real life. It is known as one of the darkest places online and is not for the faint of heart. Often the themes posted on this forum are graphically disturbing. It was in this unlikely place that a revolution was born.

THE BIRTH OF ANONYMOUS

In 2004, 4chan officially changed the protocol so that all posts were signed with "Anonymous". Users that frequented the site began to joke that Anonymous was actually a username operated by one person, rather than a reference to many commenters who simply didn't want to leave their name. This gag escalated as site traffic increased, and soon the idea of a collective conscious funneled through the persona of Anonymous was not so far-fetched. Under the guise of Anonymous, users adopted the mentality of doing whatever they pleased online, often at the expense of other users, "for the lulz".

Though the mindset of Anonymous suggests a single collective action, the users that identified with the group took it in a new direction. To even call Anonymous a group is technically incorrect. Anonymous functions as separate cogs in a single machine; each person is part of a small and often local branch of Anonymous. However, none of these branches answer to a single higher power. The users involved are completely independent; there is no membership and no personal responsibility except that which they feel towards the collective consciousness of Anonymous.

HACKTIVISM: ONLINE VIGILANTES

Despite this lack of written commitment, there seems to be no end to the dedication of members. Anonymous is credited with an astounding amount of cyber-vigilantism, with acts ranging from protesting corrupt businesses to the recent Steubenville rape scandal. One of their first publicly cited attacks, nicknamed Project Chanology, aimed to destroy the Church of Scientology. Unlike most of the internet, the group didn't aim at their religious beliefs, but instead at the financial exploitation of the Church's members.

As is often the case with Anonymous'

targets, they felt motivated to act by what the group felt was a denial of free speech: a taped interview with actor Tom Cruise was leaked to YouTube, and immediately following, the church threatened to sue YouTube if the video was not removed.

Anonymous saw this action as an attempt at internet censorship and jumped to action, hacking the Scientology website and even prank calling the churches. Anonymous then released a video, a "Call to Action" that encouraged citizens to protest the church and their exploitation of members. Over 7000 people in 93 cities around the world responded to this call, and many arrived at the rallies wearing masks or disguises to hide their identities.

Since then, Anonymous has staged three other protests of the Church of Scientology and its policies, and has begun to attack the Westboro Baptist Church.

MOVING TO THE COURTS

Although they have retained a solid reputation of confronting threatens to either free speech or internet censorship, many branches of Anonymous have expanded over the years to pursue legal justice. Aaron Swartz, a co-founder of the website Reddit, committed suicide after being sentenced to 35 years in prison. While still a student at MIT, he downloaded articles from the academic database JSTOR and intended to post them online for free, claiming that everyone should have the right to free knowledge.

This attracted the attention of the campus law enforcement and then the Secret Service. As if the right to knowledge wasn't enough to spark Anonymous' support,

the case was going to be dropped until the United States Attorney's office took over for political reasons.

Carmen Ortiz, the attorney in question, hoped to make an example out of Swartz and establish a precedent for later cases. His crimes then quadrupled and included jargon such as "wire fraud" and "unlawfully obtaining information from a protected computer". He was found dead in his apartment soon after receiving his verdict.

Anonymous quickly rallied around his memory, and is vehemently trying to persuade American citizens to reject bills such as the Cyber Intelligence and Sharing Protection Act (CISPA) and other legislation that will hinder internet rights and free speech.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

Anonymous has become so active in recent years, that Time declared them one of the Most Influential People in 2012, and their résumé continues to grow. With members all over the world, they constantly have their finger on the pulse of nations. No one knows the identity of these "hacktivists", but they are everywhere. Lurking in the shadows of the internet, they wait to defend a voice that needs to be heard, be it a rape victim or a well-meaning student. Perhaps these people behind computer screens are as close to real-life superheroes as we will ever get.

■ PATTY SANGER



"We are Anonymous.
We are legion.
We do not forgive.
We do not forget.
Expect us."
—A self-description by
Anonymous originating
from their video
attacking the Church of
Scientology



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALLYSON BURTON

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN QUIDDITCH TEAM

It isn't everyday that you see the perfect blend of athleticism and fantasy, but it exists in Texas Quidditch, the University of Texas' Muggle sport team. Allyson Burton, a fourth year English major, is current president of the World Cup-winning organization. She found the organization through an interest in the Harry Potter series, but discovered something much more.

"I sort of joined because I love Harry Potter, but stayed because I love the sport," Allyson said. "That semester, I ended up becoming Hufflepuff captain, which I did for three semesters, and then I became Vice President and tournament director of our Lonestar Cup, and now I'm president. That's one thing I like about Quidditch; it brings together two groups of people who normally might not hang out. There are the nerds and the athletes, so you get nerd athletes. It's just a really fun group of people."

You may think that running with broomsticks to imitate fiction is the farthest thing from competitive sport, but you'd be wrong. Muggle Quidditch is as serious about athleticism as it is about fun, as Allyson has experienced.

"It's a lot more intense than people think," she said. "It's full contact – one arm tackles are allowed. People think it's a lot of scrawny nerds running around with a broomstick, but I dare you to tell that to some of the varsity players."

Though J.K. Rowling's seven book series remains the main pull for most quidditch players, the sport has surpassed its origins, reaching an entirely new audience based on athletic merit alone.

"Some people are like me and join because they like Harry Potter, but there are a lot of people who join because they'll be walking by and they'll see practice where there's tackling involved, and once they see how physical it is, they just want to play it even if they haven't read the books or seen the movies. They see how cool and intense the sport is,

and they get really excited, and join because of that."

Allyson's involvement in the sport of Quidditch doesn't end with the University of Texas' teams; it extends beyond that. Putting her English major to work, Allyson writes for the International Quidditch Association - the governing body for the sport of Muggle Quidditch.

"It's a little bit of sports writing and human interest stories. It's all over the place, and it's fun," Allyson said. "I usually write team spotlights and interview a couple players from certain teams. I also wrote an article on a fundraising effort that a team did. They make player cards, so for the world cup they found out the starters of most of the teams and made cards of them, like baseball trading cards. They were selling like hotcakes, and the team made over a thousand, very professional looking cards, and sold out."

With its union of athletes and book worms, the future of Quidditch looks promising. Although Harry Potter is already popular, Muggle Quidditch is still gaining momentum – and fast.

"We have about 100 people in the organization, so we're one of the largest rec sports on campus. I don't think anyone expected for it to be as big as it is now," Allyson said. "I'm hoping it continues to grow and turns into something like Ultimate Frisbee, where every college has a team and tournaments and I think it's definitely going to continue growing worldwide and on campus. We've gotten so much support. Division of Recreational Sports has even retweeted us and put us up on the TV screens. This is our first year being an official rec sport, and the support we've received is so great."

Thanks to the involvement of students like Allyson and support from universities, the sport of Quidditch has transcended the pages of Harry Potter, carving its place on the 40 acres and the world.

■ HARRISON DROMGOOLE

WINNING THE 2013 QUIDDITCH WORLD CUP

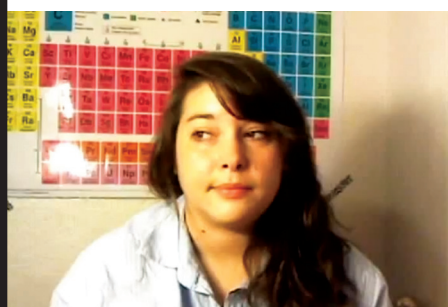
The sixth annual International Quidditch Association's World Cup was held in Kissimmee, Florida on April 13-14, 2013. The University of Texas at Austin took the tournament with a score of 190-80 against the University of California Los Angeles.

The team at the University of Texas is currently ranked 2nd in the world, bested only by Texas A&M, who currently hold the #1 title.



Photos by Madhu Singh

YOUTUBERS ON CAMPUS



PATTY SANGER OF "VOTEFORPATTY"

While previous generations still get their giggles from forwarding lame e-mails around the office, we college intellectuals have evolved beyond that. Our frequent study breaks have allowed us to cultivate a close relationship with the world of YouTube and its excellent supply of hilarious cat videos. Grumpy Cat has become the new face of Friskies cat food, and YouTube is partially to thank. However, YouTube does more than make felines famous—it has become an effective tool for young people looking to get their voices heard. Here at UT, many students have harnessed the power of YouTube in the name of free speech and the active pursuit of knowledge.

The Camera's On—Now What?

YouTube can be intimidating. Staring into the eye of the camera, it's easy to feel self-conscious and vulnerable. So how do people pluck up the courage to make their first video? "I just thought the idea that you could start something and change people's minds and that you could say your thoughts and have people agree with you—that always intrigued me," says Patty Sanger, a junior government major at UT. Under the name of VoteForPatty, she produces what she calls "v-rants," which cover social, political, or personal subjects.

Dan Resler, a freshman radio-television-film major at UT, has accumulated over 10,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel, MeTime. He refers to his videos as "edutainment" because of their educational and entertaining quality. Some noteworthy discussions focus on the slim possibility of Texas seceding the Union or how cool it would be if monkeys could talk. While the great quality of Dan's videos has put him on the YouTube map, he acknowledges that videos need support.

"It's sort of an unfortunate nature of the game that YouTubers have to spend a lot of their video time promoting other things that they're doing or other things they've done." Another UT student, Dani

Austin, has achieved a great following on YouTube through her videos about health, beauty, and fashion. A role model for many girls, she hopes to inspire girls to embrace their natural beauty. She attributes her quick ascent into stardom to her brother Landon Austin, who was already running a successful channel himself.

"Without Landon," Dani says, "I would have never had the idea to start a channel, learned how to edit, invested in a video camera, or pursued vlogging about beauty and style." Dani now prides herself in consistency, relatable content, and collaborations with other YouTubers.

It's a Small World After All

YouTube is a community unto itself. Viewers and vloggers can engage in lively conversation in a public forum and show support by subscribing to their favorite channels. It's also a great way to network, and many YouTubers attend conventions to meet fellow vloggers. Dani attended PlaylistLIVE last month, which is "a huge YouTube convention for all of the biggest YouTubers. They come together and meet their fans, perform shows, and collaborate." She was able to meet and establish friendships with fellow YouTubers, including YouTube mogul Jenna Marbles, who has 8,351,850 subscribers.

Subscribers can be both a blessing and a nagging presence for many YouTubers. "You get people who are interested in actual discussion and want to seek knowledge and that's always really refreshing," explains Sanger. "You also get the people that judge, not on the content, but on you, which is funny because they don't know you." Negative feedback can sting, but she admits that it's been a growing experience for her, "I try to take everything with a grain of salt and I don't hold myself back anymore."

Dan says he reads just about every comment that people leave on his videos, but that it can be hard reciprocating. "It's almost always positive, but I've always had a

hard time accepting positive feedback. The natural inclination is to compliment them back." He also admits, "It's an awkwardly one-sided relationship because they will think they know a fair bit about me and I know nothing about them."

Spreading the Word

YouTube can be a great medium through which students can share opinion, knowledge, skills, and life experiences. Dan says it's particularly important because it's revolutionizing the old model of success.

"We can be producers and consumers simultaneously." Previously, students had to receive a college degree before delving into the workforce. Now, anyone can pursue their interests and market themselves in the larger Internet arena. Students who produce videos can enjoy a stellar networking service even before they graduate.

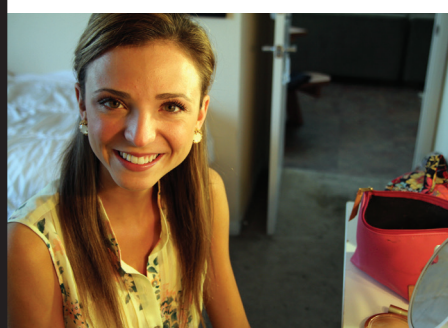
Dani says her goal with YouTube is to promote self-confidence and individuality in her viewers. "YouTube is a perfect place to celebrate how unique every single person is...Fashion, makeup, and fitness are ways we can express ourselves and spend our time, but they do not make us beautiful." Her positive presence on the Internet demonstrates how YouTube can be a really approachable and welcoming environment.

Patty emphasizes that once you're confident and have something to say, then YouTube is a great outlet. For a student looking for a voice, YouTube can be a great soapbox to spread the word about a particular issue or cause that needs advocating. If you've got something to say, be it political, social, instructional, or otherwise, YouTube can be the perfect forum. "Be confident in yourself and once you have a pretty sure footing, then go for YouTube if you're interested in it. There's a lot of love to be had..."

■ KEELY WITHEROW



DAN RESLER OF "METIME"



DANI AUSTIN OF "DANIAUSTIN2"

INTRODUCING:

WOMEN IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It's quite amazing to consider the initiative and progress constantly going on, even in the smallest of classrooms and the newest of organizations. This astonishing truth became clear to me as I entered a cozy classroom on a Thursday evening to sit in on a Women in Foreign Affairs (WFA) meeting.

According to Vice President Dylan Carroll, WFA is a professional organization promoting women to pursue international careers. As one of campus's newest and most promising groups, WFA has a distinctive sense of warmth and friendliness amongst the organization's members that became immediately clear as the meeting commenced. This was a very refreshing change from the typical rigidity and formality of more established groups.

The evening's topic, Women in International Business, focused on guest speaker Senay Ozdemir, the first Turkish television host and producer in Europe and founder of SEN, a monthly Dutch magazine for young and educated Mediterranean women that addresses topics from beauty and health to issues such as mixed marriages. Ozdemir concentrated the presentation on her argument chart, which she always gives women when they think they cannot have a career while married or having children.

Translated from Dutch as, "It's human to be successful, to have a strong life", her chart reinforces WFA's mission statement. According to member Jessica Hawkins, WFA aims to break stereotypes and social constraints that genders are often forced into by people.

This empowerment of WFA certainly comes across in the dynamic between guest speakers, officers, and general members. The announcements by officers, and presentation by Ozdemir, all involved close interaction with the audience and allowed for substantial participation and discussion.

This has become a strong asset of

WFA, and President Shelley Hernandez hopes to return five years from now and see that WFA has grown, not in size necessarily, but in women coming back and sharing their experiences with other women. Networking and developing mentors are methods that Hernandez hopes will gradually increase women's standings in foreign affairs. For now, though, she hopes to find new WFA members.

Hernandez feels that participants

IT'S HUMAN TO BE
SUCCESSFUL,
TO HAVE A STRONG
LIFE

-SENAY OZDEMIR

will enjoy an environment of equality, especially considering that "all officers are at the same level as everyone else; it's a team effort." Keila Luna, WFA's Director of Communication, echoes this unique dynamic: "We want to let the organization take its course, wherever the members take it. The members are really the designers."

Another feature that sets Women in Foreign Affairs apart is its concentration on diplomacy and international affairs that contrasts with the numerous campus groups aimed at more cultural interests. This involves the personal interactions of members with a variety of women speakers, ranging from Ozdemir to U.S. Diplomat in Residence Julie Connor.

"I've been motivated in WFA by her wanting to apply for a new location

post at one point and being told that it was too dangerous to be stationed in since she is a woman," remembers Hawkins.

So, what's in store for Women in Foreign Affairs? Yashera Marie, WFA's Social Director, feels that the amount of current participation has been good due to time and social media. In addition, she hopes to arrange for military speakers to visit since "not many organizations hit on...stereotypes toward women in the military."

Media Director Diana Pop plans on continuing the organization's discussion-based format and hopes to increase male membership. "Guys need to know about these issues, too. We are all part of the problem."

Furthermore, Luna asserts that membership as an International Relations & Global Studies (IRG) major may seem like the obvious choice, but affirms that WFA is definitely not exclusive. "Foreign affairs can be anything, so each meeting has a different, theme from women in media to health." To expand on this, WFA is also hoping to develop field trips to the State Capitol and more networking events.

Everyone seemed energized at the meeting's end, and I asked another visitor her thoughts. She said it was nice listening to a speaker less passive about discrimination in Europe. "The meeting wasn't what I was expecting, but that was nice," describes Nadine Bui, an IRG major focusing on European Studies and immigration.

Hawkins maintains that WFA's membership will allow everyone to build each other up and unite in taking on the challenges faced by women in foreign affairs. As Ozdemir's chart proclaims, "It's human to be successful, to have a strong life," and this power reveals that amazing things really are going on.

■ WESLEY HOWARD

WFA Officers:

Shelley Hernandez
President

Dylan Carroll
Vice President

Keila Luna
Director of
Communications

Diana Pop
Director of Media

Yashera Marie
Social Director

Stephanie Yarbrough
Treasurer

Connect with WFA:

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/
WomenInForeignAffairs

Twitter:

@wfaUT

RESEARCH WEEK 2013

UNDERGRADS CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH RESEARCH

Academics at the University of Texas at Austin are about passion. Students aren't just satisfied with knowing the answer. They crave more. The range of interests and intellectual curiosity here at UT is limitless. But so is the diversity of class options as well as the faculty, and when combined make UT extraordinary. Students aren't afraid to question the status quo or their teachers, which can lead to debates, discussion, and even research.

RESEARCH WEEK 2013

Every year the University of Texas at Austin celebrates undergraduate research during a week filled with programs, events, and activities which showcase thought-provoking questions and creative activity on a university-wide level. Research Week 2013, co-hosted by the Senate of College Councils and the Office of Undergraduate Research, began on April 15th and lasted through the 19th. The UT Community is invited to attend the many events that are hosted throughout the week, including poster sessions, oral research symposiums, panels, workshops, and discussion forums.

Sophomore Ann Ray began her microbiology research project through Freshmen Research Initiative, a program in the College of Natural Sciences. Currently she is studying folic acid metabolism, which is essential for many bodily functions. "Doing

research is a great way to learn how to understand on your own and work through procedures," Ray said, "and many of the skills are applicable to other biological process's." FRI offers first year students the unique opportunity to engage in research experiments in chemistry, molecular biology, physics, and more, while being supported and mentored by faculty and graduate students.

RESEARCH IN LIBERAL ARTS

One common misconception is that only students in scientific fields conduct experiments and tests. However, the reality is that any student at the University of Texas at Austin can do a research project.

The College of Liberal Arts allocates over \$4.5 million dollars each year to support the various facets of research. According to their Research Report, there are two main goals to promote excellence in research. The first is to provide first-class facilities, particularly for cross-disciplinary research. The second goal is to provide top quality lab space to recruit the best research faculty. Promoting excellence and a wide breadth of research are among the top missions of the College of Liberal Arts.

GET INVOLVED

Two common ways to get involved are to assist a faculty member or conduct an independent study. The most popular forms of independent research include an honors thesis or an internship.

Katelin McCullough, a student majoring in classical anthropology and archeology in the College of Liberal Arts, did

independent research through her honors thesis. She looked at the hierarchy structures and trade culture in elite Roman societies.

"My honors thesis was a good way to learn how to write a research-based paper," McCullough said. Her research concluded that the trend of the elite class doing manual labor was more widespread than previously examined. Through her inquiries she was able to access ancient original literary texts and images from grave memorials. Most of these texts were found in the libraries on campus, which proves that you don't need to travel half way across the globe or spend a lot of money to get resources.

WHAT STARTS HERE...

Looking for a useful (and possibly paid) internship? Research might just be your answer.

Lauren Birks, a senior majoring in psychology, conducted independent research as part of an internship this past summer through the McNair Scholar Program. Birks studied the impact of involvement in a student organization on campus and its influence on the transition process to college for African American students.

Birks conducted the research through a survey asking the students their major and minor, as well as what type of organizations they were apart of on campus; specifically, those organization that encompass social, academic, professional, emotional, and faculty support.

"Overall, getting involved in a research opportunity is a great way to get faculty support from professionals in a similar field of your interest," said Birks, "it is a good way to test whether or not you are really interested in a specific field, which has been helpful because I am going to graduate school in the fall."

Many Liberal Arts students coordinate a study because they hope to continue the investigation in graduate school. Research that begins at UT doesn't have to end after graduation or at the conclusion of a semester. Students continue to ask questions and challenge conventional thinking beyond the 40 acres.





Photos by Madhu Singh

over the past two years \$1.1 billion dollars were awarded in sponsored research. Last year research projects were conducted, both independently and with faculty, across various fields spanning from science and engineering to life science and society to advanced computing and beyond.

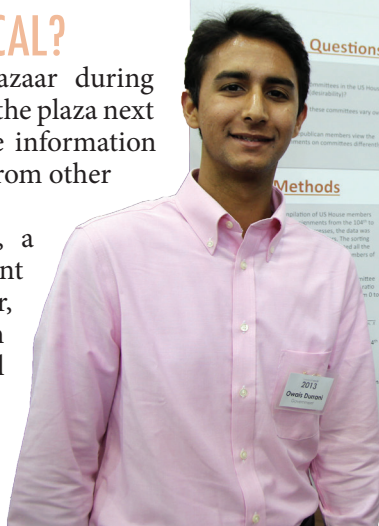
However, there are also other ways for students to get involved such as the Bridging Discipline Program. It allows students the option to take advantage of opportunities to assist professors within the College of Liberal Arts.

This program offers a great introduction to students that have never done research before but want to try it. In depth studies not only allow students and faculty to work on a problem and focus on a shared interest, but also fosters creative activity and passion over questions that students grapple with everyday.

STILL SKEPTICAL?

Stop by the bazaar during Research Week on the plaza next year to learn more information and see examples from other students.

Owais Durrani, a senior government and biology major, conducted both pharmaceutical and governmental research during his time at UT.

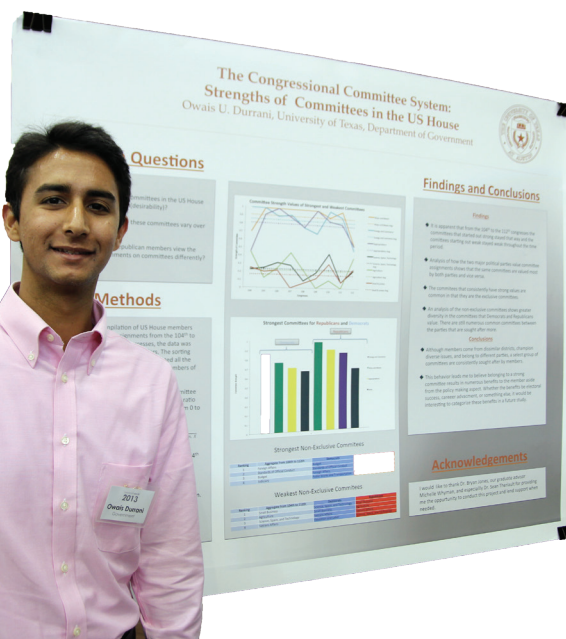


Durrani assisted a professor with his research on the effect of committee assignments on electoral success for members of the U.S. House.

"I was truly surprised by how many similarities exist between the two," Durrani said, "this goes to say that on a basic level, research instills in us skills that can be used to solve problems in any discipline."

UT offers first-class facilities and faculty members, and as a student you have access to all of it. Take advantage of the numerous resources and opportunities available on campus because you can. Who knows, maybe your next research idea could cure a disease or win a Nobel Prize.

■ MEGAN PALOMBO



RESEARCH IN MOTION

Not sure if there is research related to your specific major? Check out Research in Motion, an annual event hosted by Liberal Arts Council that gives undergraduate students the opportunity to present a review of their work.

This year, the function was held on Tuesday, April 16th in the DIES center of CLA, the new Liberal Arts building. In addition to utilizing the new facilities and showcasing their work, participants had the unique opportunity to interact with other students interested in learning about the diverse topics being researched by undergraduate students in the same college. These studies ranged from psychology majors to government majors to history majors and beyond. Sharing knowledge, attending the event, and supporting classmates are all ways that the College of Liberal Arts fosters a smaller and more connected community within the larger campus.



"IF YOU CAN READ,
AND WRITE, AND THINK,
THEN YOU GOT A LEG UP
ON THE COMPETITION IN
ANY ENDEAVOR"



PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. H.W. BRANDS

WANT TO SEE DR. BRANDS IN ACTION?

Most Popular Class:

History 315K: The United States, 1492-1865

The course covers all aspects of American history to the end of the Civil War. The basic themes are the emergence of an American identity, the evolution of American self-government, and the expansion of American territory.

(via Department Headnote)

Most Popular Book:

The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses Grant in War and Peace

(via Amazon.com)

I consider myself a teacher first," Dr. H.W. Brands tells me earnestly during our interview. These words surprised me, considering his extensive résumé: He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, has appeared in History channel documentaries, haiku during his spare time. While these achievements make him one of the foremost historians of our time, it is clear that he holds his post at UT as the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History and Government in highest regard.

CREDENTIALS

Dr. Brands grew up in Portland, Oregon, where he earned two masters degrees in liberal studies and math, but he calls Texas home: "I've lived longer in Texas than I've lived anywhere else, and that was much to my surprise."

He attended UT Austin to get his PhD in History, and then followed the job market to teach at Vanderbilt University. It wasn't long before Texas called him back, and he spent seventeen years teaching at Texas A&M before ultimately accepting a full-time post in 2005 at UT Austin.

His academic career far outspans the classroom. Upon asking him about the number of books he's authored ("You've written 25 books—"), he humbly replied, "Something like that." His fervor is for American history. "I wrote about the Texas Revolution, about the California Gold Rush, about the 1890s. I've written studies in foreign policy... so a variety of things."

A HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

He prides himself in taking a different approach to the historical narrative. "When I wrote a book about Ulysses Grant, most people remember him as a war hero and they'll pick it up thinking that's what they're going to get. They

will get a lot of that, but they're...going to get more of Grant, the rounded person." So how do you hook people on history?

"If you present it as a bunch of unrelated facts, it gets dry really fast. But if you tell them that history is the study of the people, it's about people, well people are interested in people." Dr. Brands understands his audience, and after our interview he gave a lecture in one of his history classes entitled "The Sex Lives of the Roosevelts." Hooked yet?

PRESIDENTIAL PRESTIGE

He frequently lends his expertise in American history to help solve the problems our country is currently facing. In 2009, he was one of nine historians and scholars who were invited to have dinner with President Barack Obama.

Speaking of the connection between past and present, Brands says, "You never know whether the likenesses or the differences are more important. Historians have broader perspective on the present, but we don't have all the answers."

BROADENING THE MIND

Dr. Brands emphasizes this theme of broader perspectives as the conversation turns to the importance of having a good foundation in history, "Studying history with an open mind will make you better, and better-informed, in any field that you pursue." Even if a student isn't looking to pursue history as a career, Brands hopes that people will come away from his classes with a new interest for history and that it will enrich their lives. Bestowing a golden nugget of wisdom, Brands declares that "if you can read, and write, and think, then you got a leg up on the competition in any field of endeavor."

These are promising words of advice for

us liberal arts students who frequently hear that liberal arts degrees won't get you a job right away. On the contrary, Brands says that "Liberal Arts prepares students for the uncertain future that most of our grad students are going to face better than just about any other part of the university."

He fairly notes that much of what engineer majors learn in university will be rendered obsolete by technological change, but that Liberal Arts gives students "skills that are going to be as useful fifty years from now as they are today." Chuckling, he asks, "What do you call a Liberal Arts major 10 years after graduation? Boss!"

SOME LIFE ADVICE

Dr. Brands often gives his students advice about entering the career field. "Take the best job on offer," he says, "Don't think it'll be your career: It's just a job. But in any job you can learn something." He himself had a colorful line of jobs before becoming a teacher, including cutlery salesman. Laughing, I asked, "You mean like knives and forks?!" But it was during his time as a traveling salesman that Dr. Brands' love of history was ignited. "I would spend evenings in small towns in Western states in the days before cable TV, so I would take along a big pile of history books."

I came away from our meeting with hope for my future. "You have to be open to possibilities because you never know what opportunities will await you," he told me. This should be the mantra of any student who feels lost during this transient period of our lives. It was an honor to speak with Dr. Brands, and I can assure readers that I refuse to graduate from UT without taking one of his courses.

■ KEELY WITHEROW

The trials and tribulations of manhood are tremendous, and the fact that beer is associated with manliness is one of the hardest ones to deal with. If you really think cheap, frothy alcoholic beverages exude masculinity, then why don't I just go pull a Bear Grylls and prove how tough I am? I mean really, we're all after the same thing when we're drinking— why torture yourself for the sake of gender? Being a male is just so hard!

It's true, beer is cheaper, and it may sound hypocritical, but I do enjoy Keystone. Its taste is random like those mystery flavored Dum-Dum suckers with question marks. Granted, marketing your product with a hillbilly named Keith Stone doesn't exactly suggest high quality, but considering other beer advertisements, I appreciate Keystone's honesty. That can't be said for other brands. Isn't it peculiar that the most interesting man in the world represents a label with two X chromosomes, and Lone Star's rating is literally a lone star? Or that Budweiser tastes like the piss of the horses that brand it, and Coors Light's most marketable quality is that it can be served cold?

Wine is so much better than beer. There's something about wine that oozes class and wealth- and yes, that includes the fantastic Franzia (as all cats know, boxes make everything better!). Wine is healthy for you and it's even served in church! I just want to drink wine, conspire and complain all day like Cersei Lannister (without being incestuous, female, and constantly hungover). My only goal is to keep my dignity, unlike Kathy Lee and Hoda's drunken exploits on national morning TV. Even Jesus knew that if you wanted to class up a place, you bring wine. They say he

turned water into wine at a wedding, but what they don't tell you is that the water was actually Natty Light.

But while wine brings class, champagne brings ass. Famous people like rappers and superstars love it because it's literally poppin' and you can make it rain. In any case, I don't think anyone can hate on champagne – it even has 'champ' in its name. It's delicious, feels nice and gets the job done quickly.

Regardless of alcoholic beverage, we all have one common goal in mind while drinking - to feel better. And as we approach the end of the semester and graduation, let us never forget how rotting grain, potatoes, agave and grapes bring us such joy.

On a different note, this is my last time writing for the Slacker. Making these articles has always been a pain. Not because I hate developing them, but because being creative sucks and takes too much effort. I've been called lazy and apathetic, mad and mean, but I hope I've never been called unentertaining.

My real name is Karl S. Teach. That's an anagram for 'the slacker.' I just wanted to show how creative I am. In all honesty, I don't care whether anybody knows who writes these columns, but I'd rather not have my future employers know how whiny I am.

And to my editor, Cheyenne Smith, I can't thank you enough for dealing with my excessive and profane rough drafts and allowing me the opportunity to put my ranting in writing. Without your tremendous drive and passion, this magazine wouldn't be as amazing as it is and will be in future.

With a new year comes a new columnist taking over the spot of the Slacker. Here is the Slacker's goodbye and an introduction to the Scholar.

"I just want to drink wine, conspire and complain all day like Cersei Lannister (without being incestuous, female, and constantly hungover)"

the slacker

the TRANSITION

the scholar

■ JACOB TROUBLEFIELD

"... for a place so full of written ideas, it's surprising how frequently mine are dashed away before they come to full fruition."

Tomorrow I have a paper due for a history class, so tonight I go to the PCL to write. I haven't reached the building yet, and already I dread having to spend a portion of my night there.

Wherever I end up nesting, I know it won't be the cozy, next-to-an-outlet easy chair that I require for long periods of banging away at the computer. No, I know what's in-store for me: discomfort and distractions meant to test my patience and will to write.

But I must go. My other options aren't any better.

I can't trust myself to write in my bedroom because my bed is a temptress who wins every time. I can't work anywhere else in my apartment due to the loud nature of my roommate. And I definitely can't go to a 24-hour coffee shop- as the night progresses, the baristas become increasingly jaded and the music transforms into poorly choreographed noise. Try writing to free jazz, It's no easy feat.

No. I must go to the PCL and write. It's imperative that I do so.

After swinging by a coffee shop and having my thermos refilled by a crotchety middle-aged man covered in tattoos—already my night is starting off on the right note—I finally enter the building. I will admit the PCL is kind of astounding.

While you walk across the entrance level, passing under banners advertising archival collections, you would hardly know that the four floors above you contain over 7 million volumes. That's an astonishing amount of ideas written in dozens of languages on God knows how many pages. And yet, for a place so full of written ideas, it's surprising how frequently mine are dashed away before they come to full fruition. Writing in the library is damn hard, and I blame

the studious atmosphere.

Regardless of where I decide to sit tonight, I will be surrounded by people making the most deplorable sounds. Still, I search for the least crowded area thinking that less students means more peace and quiet for me.

Wrong. Wrong. Wrong.

Not long after finding an adequate spot, all of my pet peeves begin to make their presence known. Having left my headphones at home, I am completely defenseless against their advances. So I'm left trying to ignore the students around me, which never works. Across the way, there's the overly dramatic yawner. Every 10 minutes, this blessed fella pulls up from his calculus textbook, extends his back, outstretches his arms, and lets out a deep, long yawn- and it's contagious. The constant reminder of my peer's fatigue is a near-impossible obstacle to overcome.

Then there's the person who seems to be using a typewriter instead of a computer to compose a rather lengthy paper, and he never seems to give his keyboard a break. Opposite of him is the studying couple, the most despicable of distractions. After five minutes of "studying", or merely having their face in their own separate textbook, they quit their books and start talking. This soon devolves into playful petting and, the worst of all, giggling. I can look away from their foolish behavior, but I can't block the giggling. Sometimes a new person interrupts this public display of affection. He doesn't mean to stay. He's only here to take a phone call, so as not to distract the people in his study area. Such a conscientious guy. Once the obnoxiously loud eater commences snacking away on carrots, I've had enough. I close my laptop and pack up my things.

I'll write the damn paper tomorrow morning.

SUMMER IN ATX

With SXSW over, international attention seems to have turned away from Austin. However, Texas's **eccentric** and **electric** capital is preparing for the abundance of exciting events that will take place during the **summer**. Whether you're a couch potato or, like many Austinites, an athletics junkie, summertime is one of the best times in Austin for those seeking some **excitement**.

■ ELIE WU



ATX Television Festival

Taking place from June 6th to the 9th, ATX Television Festival offers one weekend where attendees will have the chance to mingle with directors, actors, creators and writers from popular series such as *New Girl*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *The Vampire Diaries* (and many, many others, of course). Events include several panel discussions that will feature actors including Brittany Snow, America Ferrera and Scott Porter. Writers and creators of series like *Once Upon a Time*, *Royal Pains*, and *My So-Called Life* will be available to answer questions from participants and engage in discussions that are sure to be both interesting and unforgettable. Buy a badge today at www.atxfestival.com/attend/buy-a-badge and follow the event on twitter!

2

9th Annual Texas 4000 for Cancer ATLAS Ride

Texas 4000 is at it again! Beginning Saturday, June 1st at 8:00 a.m., the Texas 4000 team, sponsored by LIVESTRONG, will initiate its annual 70-day bike ride. Anyone from the community is welcome to register to ride with the Texas 4000 team in its fight against cancer. The ATLAS Ride serves to spread cancer awareness to communities across Texas; it's also a fantastic endeavor that strengthens community cohesiveness and brings hope to those affected by the disease. This is a once-per-year kind of opportunity, so click to register at www.texas4000.org/atlas/register.

1

Texas Beer Tour 5K

If pure physical exertion is too much of a good thing, Texas Beer Tour 5K offers a compromise where you can put your body in motion and try beer from the breweries of Austin, all while enjoying the city's best restaurants, pubs, bars and historical sites. Beginning June 9th and ending on the 30th, this event will take place every Saturday at the Texas Running Company in downtown. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras as they tour Austin with others from the community in a casual fun-run. Go to cityrunningtours.com/austin for the full details and make sure to register before June 8th!

4

Dog Soldier Challenge

Yet another athletic event will kick off at the beginning of June—this time in downtown at The Crucible. Participants will be expected to complete a 3.3-mile obstacle course reminiscent of the kind overcome by American troops during the Invasion of Normandy and Iwo Jima. Registration is \$85 (fees included), so while participation comes at a price, very few athletic events can compare to one such as this. Not only will you be able to showcase your athletic ability and engage in team-building exercises, but you can also make a firm statement in support of our troops who, as rumor has it, will show up and even participate in the challenge. Already interested? Get moving and register at dogsoldierchallenge.com/Enlist.

3

5

Game of Thrones Watch Party

Not interested (or perhaps unable) to get up in the morning and put your body through these strenuous physical activities? Understandable. Luckily, fans of one of the most popular television series *Game of Thrones* have organized a giant watch party that will end on June 30th. This event takes place every Sunday at Third Base Sports Bar in downtown. Affordable food and drink are sold (all under \$6), and each viewing is followed up with trivia and various games to keep the atmosphere engaging for participants. Check out thirdbaseaustin.com for the full schedule!



Heat getting to you? Don't miss out on a SnoBeach Snow Cone!

Photo by Madhu Singh

LEGISLATION RECAP

SR. 1214

In Support of Paid Family Medical
Leave

PASSED

SR. 1215

In Support of the 2013 Invest in Texas
Campaign Platform

PASSED

SR. 1216

In Support of Expanding the Projects for
Underserved Communities Program to All
Majors

PASSED

SR. 1217

In Support of Creating Veteran
Liaisons in Colleges

PASSED

SR. 1218

In Support of Senate Bill 15 in the
83rd Session of the Texas Legislature

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

CTBAC UPDATES

As we approach a new tuition-setting year, the debates about what to fund, what not to fund, what to fund more/less, etc... will all come alive once again. Fortunately, due to the efforts of the Senate of College Councils and bold college councils leading the way for the student voice, such as Liberal Arts Council, students will once again have a direct voice in these matters through the College Tuition and Budget Advisory Committees (CTBAC).

In the previous year, Liberal Arts CTBAC looked at topics including TAs, on-campus housing and food plans, and summer school - just to name a few. Additionally, it took a critical look at the claims made and plans laid out in the Smarter Systems for a Greater UT: Final Report of the Committee on

Business Productivity to increase efficiency at the university. All of this will be combined into the end-of-year report for Liberal Arts CTBAC which will recommend to the administrators of the College of Liberal Arts what students believe we should be focusing on moving forward to ensure an efficient, effective, and productive future for the college.

Now is your chance to help make the student voice heard once again. Applications for the next year's CTBAC are currently being accepted. Email lac@austin.utexas.edu for more information and how to get your copy. Students have a voice, let's make sure it's heard.

■ PHIL WISEMAN

send comments to la.ctbac@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUMMER SESSION 1: JUNE 6 - JULY 13

SUMMER SESSION 2: JULY 15 - AUGUST 19

LOOKING AHEAD

FALL 2013 ADD/DROP: AUGUST 14
FALL 2013 CLASSES BEGIN: AUGUST 28

MAY 3

LAST DAY OF CLASS

MAY 6-7, 12

NO CLASS DAYS

MAY 8-11, 13-14

SPRING SEMESTER
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

MAY 15

UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS
CLOSE AT 9:00 A.M.

MAY 16

TUITION PAYMENT DEADLINE IS
5:00 P.M. FOR UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS FOR THE SUMMER SESSION

MAY 17-18

GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN THE
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Joey Sorenson is a third-year student from Amarillo, Texas, double-majoring in Government and History. During his time at UT, Joey has served as Lead Caller and Professional Non-Profit Representative at the UT Call Center, Treasurer for Pi Sigma Alpha, Scholarships Chair for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, host of "In the Know" on 91.7 KVRX-Austin, an active member of University Democrats, Jefferson Scholars, Queer Students Alliance, and the Texas Exes Students Chapter, and President of the UT-Austin Chapter of the American Renaissance Society – a non-profit organization that Joey founded in High School to facilitate intellectual discussion and civic engagement in cities and college campuses across the country, and which he also serves as the CEO of ARS.

In his capacity as CEO of ARS, Joey is currently sponsoring an initiative to collect essays written by collegiate undergraduates from every state of the US on the political issue that matters most to them, and how its resolution will lead to our nation's forming "A More Perfect Union" – the working title for the project. Joey hopes to have the compilation completed by this coming fall, and published in the spring of 2014.

Deeply passionate about politics and public service, Joey received the honor last summer of serving as the State of Texas's delegate to the Fifth Annual Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship Student Congress in Lexington, KY – a weeklong gathering of one delegate from every state in the Union for an academic immersion into Henry Clay's principles of diplomacy, dialogue, and beneficial compromise.

This spring, Joey is working on completing his Honors Thesis in Political Theory, "Looking for Locke in All the Wrong Places: The Case for a Liberal Continuity from John Locke to Barack Obama," the proposal for which won him the 2012-13 Rapoport-King Thesis Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts.

Joey is looking forward to studying abroad in Lyon, France, this coming summer, and completing his degree at UT the following year – one semester of which he will be spending in Washington, DC, as a participant in the Archer Fellowship Program.

After graduation, Joey hopes to live in Washington and do work in international relations and American foreign policy for a few years before going to graduate school and ultimately pursuing a career in politics and political commentary.



AWARDS AND HONORS

SPRING 2012 LAC STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Ifebi
Jessica Alverenga
Brooke Brown
Marina Tetzlaff
Lefteri Christodoulelis
Ginger Yachinch
Madeline Keulen
Nina Ho
James Stratton
Jessica Hernandez

Congratulations to this year's Liberal Arts Council's Study Abroad Scholarship winners. Scholarship amounts range from \$250 to \$2,000 and are based on both need and scholastic aptitude. At the beginning of every long semester, current undergrad Liberal Arts students have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to help fund studying abroad. To apply, students must be an undergraduate currently enrolled in The College of Liberal Arts and must have a UT-Austin GPA of 2.75.

THE OUTLET

CAMPUS LIFE, POP CULTURE, MINUTIAE.
MUNDANE OR INSPIRING, THE LIBERATOR SHARES ITS
THOUGHTS ON... WELL... EVERYTHING.

In all my years at UT, when the South Mall lawn was being resown, I was disappointed I couldn't use it. As a senior, I'm like "It's for me!" Please get off my lawn.

Dana Henning

Graduating senior and I can't even rock out to "school's out for summer". Hellllllo summer school

Cheyenne Smith

Mother nature is the HBIC basically every day #aprilshowers

Madhu Singh

HBIC stands for Herpetarium Business Interests Coagulation.

Patty Sanger

With two weeks left of class it's time to use up all my class absences.

Megan Palombo

I really miss Daria. I might have watched every episode on Hulu this semester and seeing the finale again... :'(

Wesley Howard

THROWBACK CHALLENGE: Go find your 6th grade Xanga and put it on your Facebook—then cringe.

Cassie Maneen

Spending the whole weekend in face paint was definitely a good idea.

Natalia Naranjo

Whenever I study for chemistry tests, I come to the same conclusion: Science is the explanation as well as the bane of my existence.

Natalie Bernstein

Brace yourselves... the Bluth family is coming.

Kelly deMoya

INVEST IN TEXAS

GOALS OF INVEST IN TEXAS:

AFFORDABLE

Increase UT Austin state appropriations levels, financial aid funding, and TEXAS Grant levels

COMPETITIVE

Allow for plus-one benefit packages, a separate admissions policy, and increased graduate student recruitment package availability at UT

SAFE

Allow UT to determine its campus gun policy

REPRESENTED

Grant votes to UT System Student Regent (on Board of Regents) and Student Representative (on Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

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We've all heard of increased tensions between UT Austin and the Texas State Capitol, two institutions that are only blocks from each other but often worlds apart. Longhorn students and faculty see value in promoting the prestige of the university, while many in the Texas Legislature, and Governor Rick Perry's administration, view the university's future as one more accessible to state residents and less harmful to checkbooks. Although efficiency is certainly something to strive for in any system, drastic state budget cuts to university systems leave alumni, lawmakers, and higher education analysts at odds.

Naturally, current UT Austin students desire a say in the matter since they are directly affected. Enter Invest in Texas—a campaign organizing students to lobby the Texas Legislature for financial aid protection, sufficient university funds, and increased campus safety. Considering major goals of UT Austin's continued academic competitiveness, Invest in Texas consists of an alliance between the Senate of College Councils, Student Government, Graduate Student Assembly, and 25 sponsoring student organizations. The campaign's goals are packaged into a catchy mission tagline: "Keep Us Affordable, Competitive, Safe, and Represented." This mission reached a climax during the campaign's recent 2013 Legislative Day on April 2, which involved a march from campus to the State Capitol for a morning press conference and a day of discussions with lawmakers and their staffs.

Andrew Wilson, a Plan II Honors and History major, was a Legislative Day participant during the campaign's 2011 inaugural year and recently served as a member of Invest in Texas's Competitiveness Committee. This work involved researching plus-one benefit packages, graduate student recruitment packages, and UT Austin's state-mandated admittance policy. According to Wilson, "Money is always a hot-button issue in Texas, but given the Texas 'gun culture' and recent national events, I would say that the issue surrounding allowing concealed handguns on college campuses...seems to be the largest divide." In regard to such policies, Invest in Texas lobbies to allow each Texas university its own gun policy decisions, but many UT Austin students feel that guns aren't compatible with the high-density campus.

While the importance of university safety is a controversial issue, Invest in Texas's financial lobbying also brings up such concerns. As Wilson points out,

"On average, universities produce \$8 for every \$1 the state invests in them. The University of Texas at Austin returns \$18 to the Texas economy for every dollar our legislature invests." Thus, the 2011 legislative session's cutting of \$92 million from the UT budget seems less economically advantageous in the long run. Maintaining university funds supports competitiveness, which is also highlighted by Invest in Texas's desire for UT Austin plus-one benefit packages that can help recruit some of the best professors. In a broader sense, the long-standing debate over higher education in Texas is often defined by the necessity of these funds and the purpose of UT Austin: a tier one research university or school more concerned with four-year graduation rates. Since students want their views on such issues more adequately represented, Invest in Texas placed high importance on getting the Student Regent a vote in Board of Regents decisions.

These concerns fully materialized on April 2, when roughly 75-100 students marched and lobbied despite cold and overcast weather. "Texas Fight" and Invest in Texas slogans were chanted the entire way. First-year participant Nosa Aimuyo describes the experience as one of exhilaration and unity. This became clear as Legislative Day proceeded with university support and determination from the involved students. Although the political climate of UT Austin and the Texas Legislature are often quite polar, Wilson feels that Invest in Texas has taken "an approach that [is] pragmatic and respectful of conservative views. At the end of the day...we have major supporters in the legislature and our voices were heard." Due to a recent budget surplus and calmed tensions, Invest in Texas has been aided by greater optimism than that which existed in 2011. In addition, the non-partisan stance of Invest in Texas inspired respect from lawmakers. Roughly \$30 million will likely return to UT Austin over the next two years, and the campus carry bill for concealed weapons now maintains about a 60% chance of not being added to the voting calendar.

Following Legislative Day, Invest in Texas continues to watch the legislative session and keep students informed on issues. Students still maintain the opportunity to testify at committee hearings after Legislative Day. "Most impressive, though, was to see students from every discipline join together under the umbrella of Invest in Texas," recalls Wilson. "We all came to UT for an amazing education, and that ideal is what we lobbied for that day."

■ WESLEY HOWARD

LETTER FROM AN EDITOR

Dear Cheyenne,

As a Liberal Arts kid, I've taken a lot of different classes. I've sat in every building in the six-pack, traipsed through the horrible seating that is Waggener, and relished the natural lighting of the new CLA. I've lugged tomes around studying civil liberties law, read handfuls of banned books at a time, and conducted an experiment or two in some psych classes. Despite all of this exposure to different fields, I don't think I've learned more in my time thus far at UT than from you. There were many lessons from original comic strips, over Mellow Mushroom trivia, and of course a round of mini-golf, but here's some of the best from CTS301—Cheyenne Smith's Guide to Life.

If Opportunity Doesn't Come Knocking,

Build a New Door

I met you freshman year as a fellow new member to the Liberal Arts Council, and I was always intrigued by your presence. You command a room in the least intimidating way, and when you speak people can't help but listen. You transferred to UT in your second year, and found your way to Liberal Arts after Communication proved too limiting for your goals. From that moment, I knew to take notes. I had the privilege to be along for the ride as you conceived the idea of THE LIBERATOR and brought it to fruition with skill and determination. We were a rag-tag bunch, but you taught us, bettered us, each along the way.

In a matter of a few months I had a new skill set in writing for the publication, and met more influential people on campus through interviews than I had ever gleaned from an actual classroom. I watched you literally create the opportunity you wanted from your education from nothing, finding funding and administrative support along the way. You manage to set the bar high, but always lean down to help those around you reach your level. There is a tendency in student organization to discuss the needs of students and how they're not being met, but you rightfully taught all of us that if what you're looking for isn't offered, go create it.

Sorry...I'm not Sorry

Being 18-22 is slippery terrain anyways, so the added pressure of college can make it all the more interesting. People are negotiating identities and experiencing new things, and it can be tricky to navigate just when you're right or wrong. Enter, once more, the Cheyenne Smith Playbook. You've mastered the art of when to apologize, and when not to. You always acknowledge that sometimes people make mistakes,



to err is human, and other sayings found crocheted on pillows. But, you don't create a litany of excuses or send an anthology of e-mails; you very candidly accepted responsibility, apologize, and move on. This is incredible skill and even greater lesson for your colleagues. Many of us linger on our mistakes, rehashing what went wrong and why to the point of unproductiveness, but you showed us to acknowledge them, fix them, and keep trucking. More important than your capacity to forgive, even yourself, is how you know when not to say sorry. Having opinions and sticking to your convictions is nothing to apologize for, and you're a testament to that. I've seen you champion little known causes, and stand up in front of a room with an unpopular idea. This could intimidate some into compliance, but you never apologized for being original or thinking critically and questioning the status quo. If something didn't seem right, you said it. If it was poorly executed, you improved it. Success is partly a result of confidence about what you're doing and what you stand for, this means not saying sorry if you don't need to.

Take Pleasure in the Little things: Margaritas and Pop Culture

You work hard, but you play hard too. Whether that's video games or Settlers of Catan, you know when to put your head down and get to business. Even better is that you know when to let your hair down and just enjoy the company you keep. If it's been a long day, you'd recommend Lady Gaga

and Lana del Rey. When inspiration feels out of reach, and classes seem completely impractical, you innovate. From personal zines to special edition comics you're always doing something creative, and in combat boots too. You taught us to teach ourselves both new skills and new hobbies, and to take pleasure in little things like old episodes of Freaks and Geeks or the always entertaining Robot Unicorn Attack. Finally, when school and life gets completely overwhelming, you assign the best thing, Spiderhouse's Bad Mamma Jamma.

Cheyenne, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as co-editor with you this year, and even better to have you as friend for the past two. I now have eight issues of THE LIBERATOR and countless well-designed LAC shirts to remember you by, but what will stick most are your old backpack, Big Orange, your teal headphones, your square frame glasses, and all the things you've taught me along the way. Our staff can never be the same without you, but this is the paper that Cheyenne built, and if there's any hint of you in everything we do from now on, well I think we'll be ok. With a heartfelt, "my life would suck without you," I believe class is dismissed.

LIBERATOR Love,
Cassie

TO AN EDITOR

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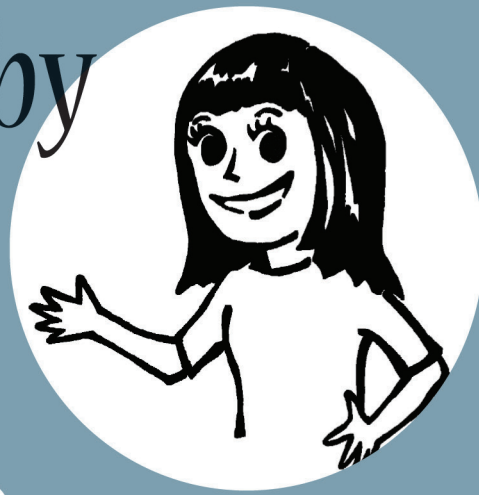


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